

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of obtaining a package, comprising:
notifying a user electronically that a package has arrived at a predetermined location;
~~printing a paper~~ generating a receipt including a two-dimensional bar code encoding [[a]]
the user's previously provided biometric information;
at the predetermined location, scanning the two-dimensional bar code, decoding the two-dimensional bar code to obtain the user's previously provided biometric information and conveying a receiving user's current biometric information to a retrieval device; and
if the receiving user's current biometric information is equivalent to the [[user's]] previously provided biometric information, providing the package to the receiving user ~~by the retrieval device~~.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
presenting the package for visual inspection by the receiving user prior to providing the package to the receiving user ~~by the retrieval device~~.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of notifying [[a]] the user electronically occurs via a cell phone.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of notifying [[a]] the user electronically occurs via a PDA.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of notifying [[a]] the user electronically occurs via a two-way pager.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the [[user's]] previously provided biometric information and the [[user's]] current biometric information include fingerprint data ~~related to the user's fingerprint~~.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the [[user's]] previously provided biometric information and the [[user's]] current biometric information include handprint data ~~related to the user's 10 handprint~~.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the [[user's]] previously provided biometric information and the [[user's]] current biometric information include voiceprint data ~~related to the user's voiceprint~~.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the [[user's]] previously provided biometric information and the [[user's]] current biometric information include facial feature data ~~related to the user's facial features~~.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the [[user's]] previously provided biometric information and the [[user's]] current biometric information include signature data ~~related to the user's signature~~.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 10, wherein conveying the
[[[user's]] current biometric information is accomplished by:

affixing the receiving user's signature to a signature bar code; and
scanning the signature bar code.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the two-
dimensional bar code utilizes the PDF 417 symbology.

13-41. (CANCELED)

42. (NEW) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a user notification indicating that the user desires to return the package;
notifying the user electronically that the package is ready to be accepted for return;
providing a return label including the two-dimensional bar code encoding the previously
provided biometric information for affixing to the package;
scanning the two-dimensional bar code, decoding the two-dimensional bar code to obtain
the previously provided biometric information, conveying a returning user's current biometric
information;
comparing the returning user's current biometric information to the previously provided
biometric information; and
accepting the package responsive to the returning user's current biometric information
matching the previously provided biometric information.

43. (NEW) The method of claim 42, further comprising querying the returning user regarding a reason for returning the package.

44. (NEW) The method as in claim 42, further comprising:
ascertaining current physical dimension and weight parameters of the package and
comparing the current physical dimension and weight parameters of the package with previously
established physical dimension and weight parameters; and

if the current physical dimension and weight parameters are substantially equivalent to
the previously established physical dimension and weight parameters, accepting the package by
the service provider and crediting the user's financial account for the amount spent on the
package.

45. (NEW) The method of claim 42, wherein user notification is received via the
Internet.

46. (NEW) An apparatus for delivering goods, comprising:
a scanner operable to scan a two-dimensional bar code provided by a receiving user
responsive to being notified of availability of a package, the two-dimensional bar code encoding
previously provided biometric information associated with an intended receiver of the package;
a collector operable to collect the receiving user's current biometric information; and
a comparator operable to compare the current biometric information and the previously
provided biometric information and determine if the package can be provided to the receiving

user responsive to the current biometric information matching the previously provided biometric information.

47. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the previously provided biometric information and the current biometric information include fingerprint data.

48. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the previously provided biometric information and the current biometric information include handprint data.

49. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the previously provided biometric information and the current biometric information include voiceprint data.

50. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the previously provided biometric information and the current biometric information include facial feature data.

51. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the previously provided biometric information and the current biometric information include signature data.

52. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the two-dimensional bar code utilizes the PDF 417 symbology.

53. (NEW) A method of obtaining a package, comprising:

- generating a receipt including a two-dimensional bar code encoding an intended receiver's previously provided biometric information;
- scanning the two-dimensional bar code and decoding the two-dimensional bar code to obtain the previously provided biometric information;
- capturing a receiving user's current biometric information; and
- comparing the current biometric information to the previously provided biometric information; and
- providing the package to the receiving user responsive to the current biometric information matching the previously provided biometric information.